

## British Military Forum Springtown Match / IMA Tour Review October 2022.

I would like to thank everyone that attended the BMF/IMA event. It went exceptionally well and everyone seemed to have a great time. We did have a little glitch on Thursday night kicking off the dinner. I was driving to Pearly Bakers when I got a call from Ross McBean, “John I’m at Pearly Bakers and it is closed”. It turned out that they are only open on weekends. It all worked out for the best and seventeen of us had a very nice dinner across the street from Pearlys at a restaurant called the Bayou.



Friday morning found the group arriving at IMA at 9:00am and they were greeted by Alex Cranmer and served coffee and donuts. Alex gave a short welcome and the hunt was on. A nice lunch was served on IMA’s sunny and warm front lawn. Thanks to Christian and Alex for being such gracious hosts again this year and to all the IMA staff for help with questions. We had 50 people for the IMA tour/hunt. All in all a number of the group found stuff that would make the trip home with them.



Special thanks to Alex Mruk for a keepsake that he made for each attendee. Alex contacted me early in the week and explained that he had gotten a rolling press that could emboss and had created a design for the event. He had made a bulk purchase of Victorian British pennies and rolled the design onto the pennies. Alex gave me the medallions on Thursday night and I inserted one in the name tag for each of the attendees. Big round of applause for Alex it made the entire weekend extra special. You can see these on the BMF Yard Sale heading.

Friday night was the Braai (dinner) at the Springtown clubhouse. Chef Michael outdid himself and prepared a fantastic meal for thirty-five of the group. It was so good not one ounce of food was left at the end of the evening. Michael cooks with stuff I have never even heard of.



Saturday morning saw my close friend and right hand Dr. Glenn Kaye on the range at 7:30am along with two helpers getting the target frames out and doing range setup. As usual we got off to a late start but the opening three volley salute went well (two out of three were good, one not so good but Tim Billow instructed everyone to "Wait for It" and the last one was fine) .



We ran twenty minute relays during which the VRPM could be shot along with anything Victorian and we had some interesting weapons on the line. Martini Henrys, Sniders, MH 22s, MH 303, Needhams, Trapdoors, muzzle loaders such as EIC Muskets, P53s and a magnificent new Baker rifle that belongs to Evan Brune from the NRA. We stopped the relays about 1:30 and shot the Quigley Bucket Match, 3 shots offhand 100 yards at a small bucket and many of the buckets were hit.

Next up was the Charging Elephant skirmish event with two teams shooting at various targets. It started with 4 six inch tiles at 100 yards and the team had to break them first and then move to a group of clay pigeons at 50 yards and when they were all broken hit two tiny pumpkins at 25 yards, Team number one proved to be the winners. Special thanks to Victor for all the fantastic art work in creating the 100 yard and 50 yard elephant targets.



Glenn Kaye had fun shooting his percussion 58 caliber Gatling gun and made lots of smoke. A lot of barrels to clean but so much fun ore thanks to all of you that pitched after and did a great job cleaning up the range. It looked better at the end of day than when we found it in the morning.



Our Saturday night dinner went well at the club house and our extra special guest, Paul Bannan, gave an interesting talk about some of his early BMF experiences. Paul it was great to have you this year a special treat for everyone.



Again thanks to everyone that came to the event and thanks for registering early. We had 76 preregistered and only two walk-ons so it made the planning for food, targets and materials much easier. Michael without you this would never have happened!!!!!!

I'm already looking forward to next year, let the planning begin.

Cheers to all,  
John Rountree  
PrinterJohn



The Needham Boys